

Charitable Fund Drive Campaign Begins

The department's Charitable Fund Drive is now under way, and employees are encouraged to participate at any level they can. During the current drive, 12 percent of Agriculture and Food employees contributed to a charity, generating more than \$4,600 to the fund. The money was used to buy shoes, clothes, medical services, food, and other basic items for Utah's needy. The campaign's UDAF coordinators, Joyce Baggs and Shirley Pierce, are hoping to increase participation levels. "Utah employees are some of the most generous people in the state, and their contributions go a long way to helping those in need in Utah," Baggs said.

A pledge form will be distributed to employees soon. They are due back to Joyce or Shirley by November 19.

The department's pledges have increased over the past three years. Seven percent of UDAF employees pledged \$1,916 in 2000; Thirteen percent of employees pledged \$3,607 in 2001; and 12 percent of workers pledged \$4,616 this year. Listed below is the participation levels of various other state agencies.

Other State Department's Participation in 2002

Department	Pledge	Participation level
Dept. of Workforce Services	\$64,750	@ 32%
Dept. of Human Services	\$56,200	@ 9%
Dept. of Health	\$42,900	@ 20%
Dept. of Transportation	\$37,500	@ 14%
Dept. of Natural Resources	\$31,300	@ 9%
Dept. of Environmental Quality	\$26,900	@ 40%
Dept. of Alcohol/Beverage	\$ 8,500	@ 14%
Governor's Office	\$ 8,400	@ 42%
Utah National Guard	\$ 4,000	@ 12%
DHRM	\$ 3,500	@ 55%
Utah Senate	\$ 230	@ 4%
Utah House of Reps.	\$ 0	@ 0%

Source: State Charitable Fund Drive

What's On The Web

A look at new and interesting UDAF web pages

Beginning November 1, 2002, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food will begin accepting online license renewals. The addition is part of the State of Utah's efforts to streamline and improve service to the public.

The renewal service will accept payments by credit card or e-checks, which is a form of account transferring. Both systems will be protected with the latest security precautions.

UDAF License Renewal

UDAF will begin accepting online license renewals as of November 1, 2002.



UTAH AG NEWS

November 2002

2002

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Kristine Allen is Marketing and Conservation's new **Account Tech III**. She comes to the department from the Utah Tax Commission where she was an account tech I.

Caution in the parking lot

Commissioner Peterson wishes to remind department employees to think about security in our parking lot whenever entering or leaving the building. This reminder comes as winter evenings grow darker sooner. One suggestion is to always walk with a partner when you leave the building, or when taking exercise walks around the grounds.

Annual Luncheon

The combined annual Service Awards Luncheon and Holiday Employee party is scheduled for Thursday, December 5th at Historic Wheeler Farm. The luncheon is sponsored by the Employee Service Committee and Administrative Services. The employees' committee will hold its annual charity auction at the luncheon, and we are being asked to donate new or nearly new items for the auction. Live bluegrass music will be provided.

RSVP to your division's employee service committee representative before Thanksgiving.

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS NOW IN PLACE

Salt Lake City – Uniform and consistent national standards governing the growing, handling and sale of organic farm products took affect Monday, Oct. 21, 2002. The National Organic Food Program is intended to create a comprehensive standard that consumers can rely on.

Utah, along with nine other states, implemented the standards in May of this year.

Essentially, the new organic standard offers a national definition for the term "organic." It details the methods, practices and substances that can be used in producing and handling organic crops and livestock, as well as processed products. It establishes clear organic labeling criteria, and specifically prohibits the use of genetic engineering methods, ionizing radiation, and sewage sludge for fertilization

"We are pleased to be among the first states to offer this service to our organic farmers and ranchers," said Cary G. Peterson, Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food. "I believe we created an easy-to-use system that will help growers develop new and profitable markets." He added.

Under the new rules, organic means: Meat, poultry and eggs are from animals given no growth hormones or antibiotics. Livestock are given organic feed. Crops are grown on land that has not been fertilized with sewage sludge or chemical fertilizers. Pests and plant diseases are treated primarily with insect predators, traps, natural repellents and other non-chemical methods.

Oct. 21 was the deadline to ensure that all qualified organic production and handling operations are certified to use the USDA organic seal on fresh and processed products.

All agricultural products labeled organic must originate from farms or handling operations certified by a state or private agency accredited by USDA. Farms and handling operations that sell less than \$5,000 worth per year of organic agricultural products are exempt from certification.

For more information about Utah's organic program visit: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/>

Foods labeled with the State of Utah or USDA "Organic" seal must be at least 95 percent organic.

